The possibility of Pakistan's nuclear programme having a military dimension would naturally be a matter of serious concern for India. Government are keeping a close watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security.

U.N. Conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

@1084. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Wil the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made regarding the proposed United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

(b) wheather any new initiative has been taken to have an early United Nations Conference and whether any discussion was held with Sri Lanka President in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) There has been little significant change in the position since reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2697 of 16th December, 1983. Two sessions of the UN *Ad hoc* Committee on Indian Ocean have since been held, the most recent having taken place from 9th to 20th July, 1984. The items discussed at the latest session *inter alia* included the draft agenda and draft rules of procedure for the propose Conference. Given the continue opposition by some countries to the finalisation of the dates of the Conference, no substantial progress could be achieved. The next session of the *Ad hoc* Committee is expected to be held prior to the consideration of this item at the 39th UNGA Session later this year.

(b) and (c) A draft framework of the Agenda for the proposed Conference, now under discussion, was a result of the efforts of the Nonaligned countries and was submitted at the March, 1984 session of the *Ad hoc* Committee

The subject of the proposed UN Conference on the Indian Ocean was not discussed during the recent visit to India of the Sri Lankan President, Shri J. R. Jaawadene.

Talks on border dispute with China

@@1085. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any date has been fixed for the next round of talks with China on border dispute between the two countries;

(b) whether the agenda for the meeting has been decided and where the meeting is proposed to be held; and

(c) what progress has so far been made for solving this dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The next round of official level talks between India and China is scheduled to commence from September 17, 1984.

(b) Though the agenda has yet to be formalised, it is expected to follow the past pattern and cover, besides the boundary question, other aspects of bilateral relations as well. The next round of talks will be held in Beijing.

(c) Four rounds of official level talks have already been held and as the House has been informed on earlier occasions, both sides have so far set forth their respective stands on the boundary question. In the fourth round, an attempt was made to evolve a set of common principles derived from the earlier discussions. These common principles were intended to be

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 618, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.
@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 626, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.

the basis of further discussions on the boundary question. While an agreement was reached on some aspects, progress could not be made on others. In the next round the endeavour will be to resume this dialogue and hopefully move towards further progress.

Delays in getting passports

@1086. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delays in getting passports;

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure quicker issue of passports;

(c) what measures are being taken to remove the immigration control for people who do not come within its purview;

(d) whether Government are aware of the cost and trouble that all out-going Indians have to take to secure affidavits; and

(e) what reforms are contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) There are no delays in the issues of passports.

(b) The procedure regarding the issue of passports has been stremlined and passports are being issued expeditiously within a time bound framework, in case application is received complete in all its forms.

(c) The Passports of those individuals who do not come within the purview of emigration control in accordance with the provisions contained in the Emigration Act 1983 are appropriately endorsed with the stamp "Emigration check not required" Guidelines have been issued to all passport authorities in this regard.

(d) The procedure for suspension of Emigration requirements provides for an application in the form of an affidavit, accompanied with return air-ticket and proof of drawal of foreign exchange besides visa, if required.

(e) Certain hardships resulting from the aforesaid pocedure of affidavits at the time of suspension of emigration endorsement have been brought to the notice of the Government and consequently this procedure has been considerably simplified, as below:—

(i) The requirement of application for seeking suspension of emigration requirements in the form of an affidavit has been dispensed with regard to the following:

(a) Non resident Indian returning abroad after living in India.

(b) Indian Nationals granted permanent Immigration visas by foreign countries.

(c) Seamen in possession continuous discharge certificate.

(d) Visit to Pakistan and Bangladesh.

(e) Male passport holders above the age of 55 years and female passport holders above the age of 50 years.

(f) persons below the age of 21 years going out for high education on scholarship or with sufficient foreign exchange relaased by the Reserve Bank of India or on sponsorship basis and dependent children accompanying any parent who has secured emigration clearance.

(ii) Single affidavit can be filed by Travel agents who are also Registered Recruiting Agents on behalf of pilgrims for Haj/Umrah. The individual pilgrims need not therefore come individually.

(iii) Categories of Passport holders have been enlarged (who can get

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 646, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.